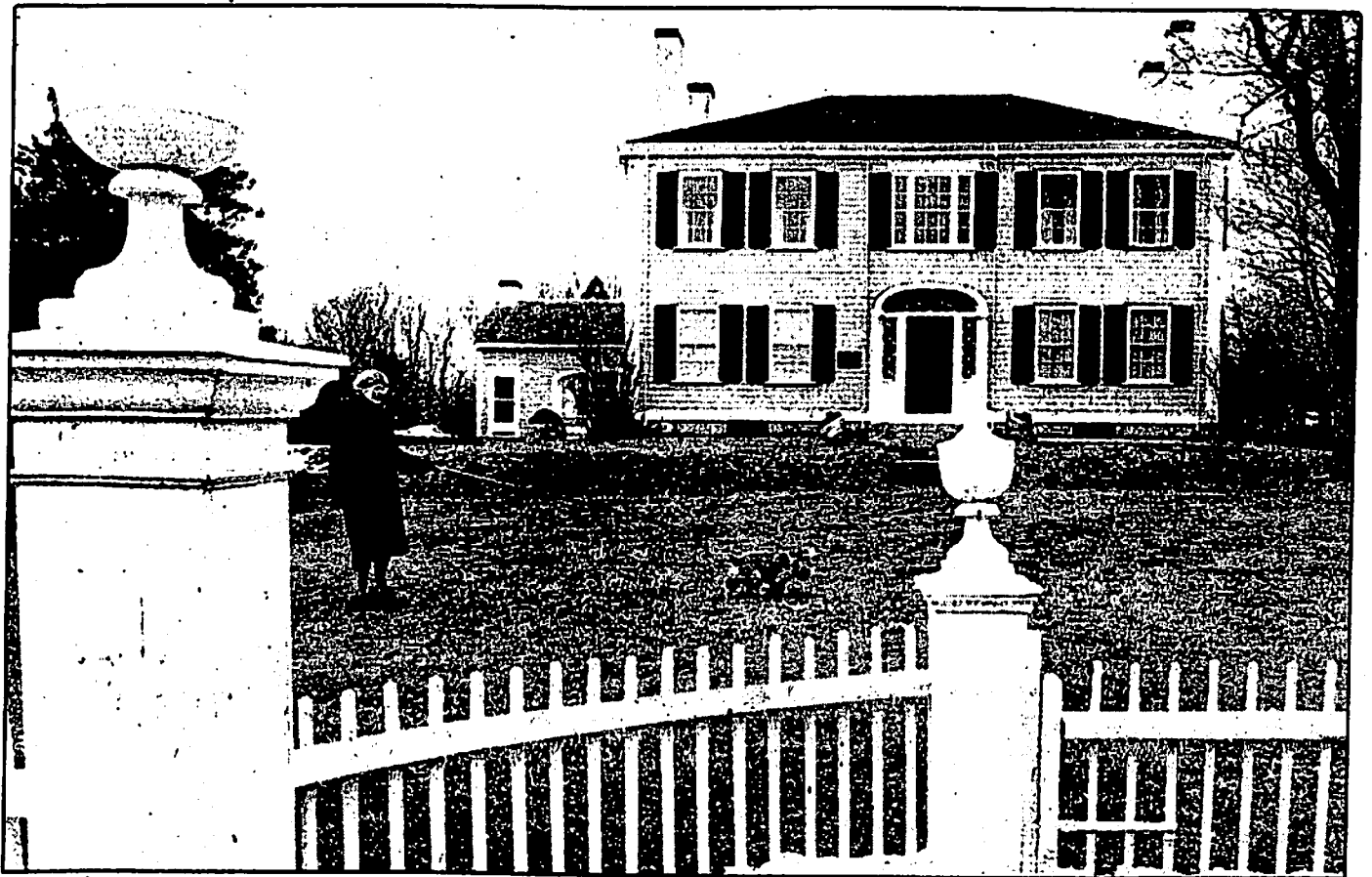


BOSTON GLOBE
MARCH 11, 1982



King Caesar House is one of the many graceful mansions which dot Duxbury's landscape. GLOBE PHOTOS BY TED DULLY

*A suburb by the sea beckons
to the young and affluent*



CENSUS '80

By Irene Sege
Contributing Reporter

DUXBURY - When Mary Beth Phippard looked for a house closer to her husband's Hanover office three years ago, she checked out many South Shore communities before settling on a new three-bedroom colonial here. She's glad she made the move from Sudbury - for the house, for the schools, for the beach, but most of all for the fact that, like her, the people next door have two small children and a cocker spaniel.

"This is the first time we ever bought with young people on both sides like we always said we'd do. We always said we were going to find a house with kids next door," says Phippard, 31. "Where we lived in Sudbury was an established neighborhood. Most people within walking distance were older couples whose children were in college."

The Duxbury of Phippard's dreams, the suburb by the sea where young families go to raise their children, is something of an anomaly. Close enough to Boston to be considered part of the metropolitan area in both the 1970 and 1980 censuses, its growth has lagged behind suburbs to the north whose spurts subsided by the '70s. In that, Duxbury

DUXBURY, Page 19



Tim Sprague unloads mussels at Powder Point.



Ken and Shelley Beeby and their daughter pose with the family dog in their home on Duxbury's Tinkertown lane. GLOBE PHOTO BY RICK HULBERT

Suburb by sea beckons

■ DUXBURY

Continued from Page 15

more closely resembles the expanding communities of Plymouth County and Cape Cod.

Duxbury is one of the few suburbs that grew appreciably during the '70s. What makes it stand out, though, is the increase in the number of people under age 18. In suburban Boston, only Boxborough, a far western community added to the metropolitan area for the 1980 count, approached Duxbury's 40 percent growth rate in the number of children. But in Plymouth, two towns to Duxbury's south, the number of youngsters almost doubled.

What Duxbury offers is an expansive town beach, tranquil streets punctuated with remnants of centuries past, a reputation for good schools, and pricier homes than nearby communities. It's a place, says Duxbury Clipper editor John Cutler, "for people who can choose to live wherever they want."

The Duxbury difference cost less through much of the '70s than it does today. "Where now it might be tens of thousands of dollars difference, then it was relatively small," says local developer Edward Keating, citing the escalating inflation of housing prices at the end of the decade. A typical house now costs about \$125,000.

Today, more than 350 years after a handful of Pilgrims from nearby Plymouth spent their first summer here, Duxbury has 12,526 people, up 64 percent from 7636 in 1970. The number of children jumped from 2926 in 1970 to 4111 in 1980.

With buildable land still taking up almost one quarter of the town's 25 square miles, it's estimated there's room for the present population to double. The town had 4155 housing units in 1980, a 65 percent increase over 1970.

About 35 miles south of downtown Boston, the twisting Duxbury shore meets the quiet waters of Duxbury and Kingston Bays, as well as the breakers of the open Atlantic at Duxbury Beach. Inland roads skirt rivers, marshes, ponds and cranberry bogs.

Historic houses still stand in the eastern part of town - federal style homes of shipbuilders flank Washington street; winterized villas line Powder Point where the wealthy once summered; gray-shingled salt-boxes, some dating to the 18th century, are scattered throughout the older sections. Newer homes, most of them in the western part of town, often mimic the traditional styles of the old houses.

"My first feeling here," says nine-year resident Shelley Beeby, "was that it was like driving through a history book or across a postcard."

The newcomers, most of them professionals, are just as likely to have moved from out of state as from other Massachusetts towns, says Clipper editor Cutler. While Phippard came from Sudbury, Beeby moved from St. Louis when her husband, now vice president of Ocean Spray, got a job with the Plymouth company.

Duxbury residents also include many who grew up summering in town and later moved here year round. A third, smaller group trace their Duxbury ancestry to the era of ships and before. The result is a town whose per capita income in 1977, the latest year for which figures are available, was \$7413 compared with a statewide average of \$5826.

The transformation from coastal resort to affluent suburb began in the 1960s after the opening of the Southeast Expressway and continued throughout the '70s.

With suburbanization have come:

- Children. As other suburbs closed schools in the 1970s, Duxbury opened a new elementary school in 1973 and built additions to its high school, middle school, and other grammar school. Enrollment jumped 39 percent from 2331 in 1970-71 to 3240 in 1980-81, with the bulk of the growth coming in the early part of the decade. The school population has started to dip, but Supt. Seldon Whitaker expects the number of kindergarteners to increase.

- Catholics. Marianne Hanigan, 77, remembers when Mass was said summers only by a priest who traveled from Kingston. "It attracted people who worked for the wealthy on Powder Point," she says. "They were maids, people in service, chauffeurs."

Today, the Holy Family Church that Hanigan and her friends helped build in 1945 with money raised at bridge parties is the largest in town. Its 5000 members, says Rev. Brian Kiely, are "mostly executive management types."

- Democrats. In decades past, says Clipper editor Cutler, "my God, if you said you were a Democrat you'd be a marked man." Today's 1248 Democrats account for 18 percent of Duxbury's registered voters. In 1970, 10 percent of the voters registered Democratic, and two decades ago just 4 percent were Democrats. The 3763 Independents comprise 54 percent of the voting rolls, up from 40 percent in 1970.

- Zoning. Town officials boast of their efforts to control growth through zoning. One-acre lots came in the 1950s, and in 1973 Duxbury became one of the first communities in the commonwealth to adopt wetland protection zoning and to allow cluster development. Town-house development, though not extensive, "helps our tax situation," says Planning Board Chairman Phillip Waier - people with children to educate are less likely to move to townhouses than single family homes.

There are some complaints here about life in an affluent suburb. High school assistant principal John Pierce worries about teenage drinking. Local businessman Richard Cotton, an 18-year resident, would like to see some light industry to relieve homeowners who now bear 90 percent of the tax burden. Former selectwoman Ruth Rowley says the town could use more diversity of people. Jean and John Powers, here since 1970, have had enough of the quiet life and are moving to the city.

But there's also a wariness about any growth that threatens what people call the "character" of the town. A 7-year-old, colonial style collection of shops and professional offices built in one of the town's two small commercial areas is pointed to with pride. But about three years ago, a proposal to put a shopping center in another section was defeated in town meeting. Kingsbury Plaza was eventually built in neighboring Kingston.

Growth shows up in less visible ways than the new houses and school enrollment figures. A community whose politics once consisted of backroom intrigues at the Snug Harbor Fish Market, nicknamed "Clammany Hall," has considered bringing on a professional town manager. A town that had 195 thefts in 1970 had 512 in 1980.

For William Hanigan, 45, there's something special about the Duxbury style. Hanigan, the father of three children, grew up in West Roxbury but spent summers in Duxbury, the town of his parents' youth. Shortly after he married 17 years ago, Hanigan, a Weymouth teacher, bought a house here.



Family pet greets Mary Beth Phippard outside Duxbury home. GLOBE PHOTO BY TED DULLY